

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the indication that claims 7-9 and 29-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite issuance, the limitations of claim 7 and its intervening claims 5 and 6 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and the claims depending thereon are allowable.

Applicant has not incorporated the limitations of intervening claim 4 into independent claim 1 because the support part recited in claim 4 is inconsistent with the support part recited in claims 5-7. Through an inadvertent error, claim 5 had incorrectly identified the claims upon which it depends as "one of claims 1 through 4" rather than "one of claims 1 through 3."

Claims 8, 10-12, 14 and 16 have been amended and claims 4-7, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28 and 29 have been canceled to conform the claim set to amended claim 1 and eliminate redundant and improper multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 8-16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 and 30 will be pending in this application. Since amended claim 1 is generic, and all pending claims to the nonelected species depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of allowable claim 1, the election requirement should be withdrawn and claims 10-13, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 27 should be rejoined and fully examined for patentability. MPEP 821.04.

In view of the above, early action allowing claims 1-3, 8-16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 and 30 is solicited.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in

connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **246472006900**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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